Beginning – Setting the scene. Here we are introducing the main character and the setting for the story.

**The Blue Whale’s Journey to the Equator**

Slowly, the blue whale blinked and yawned. A shiver ran down his immense mandible as the cold air rippled through his deep ocean home. It was time to make his great journey to feel the warmth of sun rays again on his smooth and springy skin. He knew every winter blue whales must swim for more than two months to get to the calm warm seas near the Equator as it is too cold in the South Pole. Rolling his body like a huge tree trunk, the blue whale started to stir from his slumber and begin his epic adventure. But first he took a great gulp of tasty krill and seawater and allowed his thousands of baleens to catch each one of them. Licking the krill away from his bristles, the blue whale filled his belly with the tiny fish.

Beating his huge tail up and down, the blue whale began to slowly and steadily head towards his balmy destination. The bright coral on the sandy seabed glistened as it was caught by the twinkling sunlight. Red, yellow, orange, blue, green and pink plant life fluttered like a Mexican wave as the blue whale glided silently by. Brightly coloured, tiny fish darted about as if they were playing a football match. Rippling through the turquoise water towards the bright surface, the blue whale came up for air. Proouff! A great salty, fishy puff leapt from his blowhole and climbed as high as a house. It then fell like rain across the surface of the ocean and created little pin holes in the once calm seas. The blue whale continued his journey.

Middle – build-up and problem. Here we are building the story towards a problem. It is important your reader feels the character is worried about the problem.

A moment later as he swam through the icy waters, he saw a family of turtles drifting past above him. The oldest turtle looked so serious with his wrinkly neck extended from his mottled shell and sharp beak. Nervously, the blue whale stopped beating his tail and floated as still as a plank of wood and waited for them to pass. He didn’t want to upset the turtles and he knew he needed to rise to the surface again to breathe some cool fresh air. Eventually, the turtles disappeared into the distance and in a hurry to get to the surface the blue whale beat his tail harder than ever before. He rose through the waters like a mythical God and blasted the skies with his misty breath.

Suddenly, he felt himself being pulled back into the dark ocean water. The panic rose inside him as quickly as a firework rocketing into the sky. His heart was pounding fast. What was happening? Using his body to twist and turn, the blue whale tried to get free of whatever seemed to be pulling him further and further into the sea. As he moved left and right, he felt like he was getting more and more in trouble. Looking down towards his tail, he could see thick rope from a fishing net wrapped around him. He was very afraid. There was no way he could move his 30-metre-long body to free himself from this tangled mess. He felt so alone. He felt so scared. He felt so sorry for himself. He just didn’t know what to do.

Ending – the resolution to the problem and the ending of the story. Remember to sort the problem out and then add some detail about how the story ends.

Just then, he saw a tiny speck of hope. The old, stern-looking turtle was hurtling towards him. It swam down towards the blue whale’s vast tail and began to bite his way through the great net. Soon the rest of the turtle’s family joined him and they all began gnawing the thick cord that surrounded the blue whale. Snapping their beaks like axes chopping down trees, they began to loosen the great rope around him. After one last SNAP, the blue whale was free. He turned to thank the turtles for their help but they had already begun to slip away back on their journey. The blue whale smiled.

After a while, the blue whale could feel the sea becoming warmer and warmer. He knew that he was getting nearer to his winter destination. He glided through the sea like an eagle in the sky towards the warmth of his new home until the spring came and it was time to return to the South Pole. At last he arrived and he dived deep into the ocean’s dark home and let out an almighty hum to let his friends and family know he had succeeded!